

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

[c1] 1. An intelligent network comprising:

a service switching point connected to a telephone;

a service control point constructed and arranged to provide at least one call service on demand, said service control point being connected to said service switching point; and

a peripheral apparatus constructed and arranged to permit customization of the manner in which an end user interacts with the service control point so that a user using said telephone can access said at least one call service, said peripheral apparatus being connected to at least one of said service switching point and said service control point.

[c2] 2. The network according to claim 1, wherein said service switching point and said service control point are connected by an out-of-band signaling network.

[c3] 3. The network according to claim 2, wherein said peripheral apparatus is connected to at least one of said service switching point and said service control point by said out-of-band signaling network.

[c4] 4. The network according to claim 3, wherein said out-of-band signaling network is a Signaling System 7 network.

[c5] 5. The network according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral apparatus is connected to said service switching point and said peripheral

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apparatus is connected to said service control point by way of said service switching point.

[c6] 6. The network according to claim 3, wherein said peripheral apparatus is connected to said service switching point and said peripheral apparatus is connected to said service control point by way of said service switching point.

[c7] 7. The network according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral apparatus is constructed and arranged to collect information from the user needed for providing said at least one call service.

[c8] 8. The network according to claim 7, wherein said information from the user is in the form of at least one of: DTMF tones, analog pulses, and verbalized speech.

[c9] 9. The network according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral apparatus is constructed and arranged to provide customized information to the user in connection with providing the said at least one call service.

[c10] 10. The network according to claim 9, wherein said customized information provided to the user is in the form of at least one of customized recorded messages and customized spontaneously-generated speech.

[c11] 11. The network according to claim 10, wherein said spontaneously-generated speech comprises concatenated strings of recorded speech segments.

[c12] 12. The network according to claim 1, wherein said service switching point and said service control point communicate using Intelligent Network Application Protocol message traffic.

[c13] 13. The network according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral apparatus communicates with at least one of said service switching point and said service control point using Intelligent Network Application Protocol message traffic.

[c14] 14. The network according to claim 10, wherein said customized information comprises verbal information having a form depending on the user's geographic location.

[c15] 15. A peripheral apparatus for permitting customized end-user interaction with an intelligent network, comprising:

a primary computer constructed and arranged to process non-speech user inputs and to generate and output customized user information in a pre-defined manner;

a signaling interface unit constructed and arranged to provide a signaling traffic interface with the intelligent network; and

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a secondary computer for processing verbalized user inputs, wherein said primary and secondary computers are connected, and said secondary computer acts as a server and said primary computer acts as a client for processing said verbalized user inputs,

wherein said signaling interface unit is connected to said primary and secondary computers, and said signaling interface unit has an interface for connection with a service switching point and a signaling switching point in the intelligent network,

wherein said primary computer has an interface for connection with a service switching point in the intelligent network.

[c16] 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said primary computer is constructed and arranged to generate and output customized user information corresponding to a user's geographic location.

[c17] 17. A method of permitting customized end-user interaction with a call service in an intelligent network, comprising:

collecting user input information needed to establish the call service;

providing the collected user inputs to a service control point associated with the call service; and

outputting information associated with the call service in a manner customized with respect to a given user.

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[c18] 18. The method according to claim 17, wherein collecting user input information comprises collecting one or more of DTMF tones, analog pulses, and verbalized speech.

[c19] 19. The method according to claim 17, wherein outputting information comprises outputting at least one of a recorded message and spontaneously-generated speech.

[c20] 20. The method according to claim 19, wherein outputting spontaneously-generated speech comprises concatenating a string of recorded speech segments.

[c21] 21. The method according to claim 17, wherein outputting information associated with the call service in a manner customized with respect to a given user comprises outputting information having a form corresponding to the given user's geographic location.

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